

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

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PO Box 200801
HELENA, MONTANA 596206801

January 14, 2002

Max Dodson
Assistant Regional Administrator
Office of Ecosystem Protection and Remediation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
999 18th Street, Suite 300
Denver, CO 80202



RE: Listing of the Libby Asbestos Site

Dear Mr. Dodson:

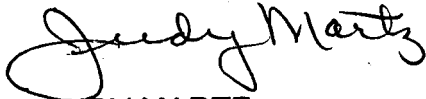
Thank you for your letter of December 6, 2001, requesting my support for the addition of the Libby Asbestos Site in Montana to the National Priority List (NPL). I share your interest in cleaning up contamination associated with past W.R. Grace mining activities. I also share your concern that the community be protected from the effects of exposure, and I appreciate the efforts EPA has taken to date to address the contamination. We must do all we can to protect community health.

The Libby Asbestos Site presents the greatest danger to public health or welfare or the environment of the known superfund facilities in Montana. The form of asbestos in the vermiculite has resulted in disease tied to W. R. Grace's mining activities in Lincoln County. Therefore, I am hereby designating the site as the highest priority release site in Montana and request that the site be placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) as soon as possible. This designation is made in accordance with Section 105 of CERCLA and Section 300.425(-)(2) of the National Contingency Plan. Enclosed with this letter is documentation supporting Montana's designation of this site as the highest priority release in Montana. These documents should be included in the rule-making docket for the proposed listing.

Max Dodson
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Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak for the citizens of Montana on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Judy Martz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Judy" and last name "Martz" clearly legible.

JUDY MARTZ
Governor

Enclosures

Cc: Jan Sensibaugh
Gail Gray
Senator Max Baucus
Senator Conrad Burns
Congressman Dennis Rehberg
Lincoln County Commissioners
Mayor Tony Berget
Libby City Commission
Community Advisory Group